

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

**Please replace paragraph [0042] of page 22 with the following amended paragraph [0042]:**

[0042] Turning now to FIG. 6, a low-level flow diagram that illustrates a method for predictively responding to SNMP commands in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention is presented. At 600, a SNMP request is received. At 605, the request is classified according to whether it matches a pattern. At 610, a determination is made regarding whether a matching pattern is found. If the pattern is not found, at 615 basic SNMP agent processing is performed. If a matching pattern is found, at 625 a check is made to determine whether the cache includes a response corresponding to the request. If a corresponding response request is found in the cache, non-data fields such as the request ID are added to the response PDU at 640 and the response is sent at 645.

**Please replace paragraph [0047] of page 24 with the following amended paragraph [0047]:**

[0047] Turning now to FIG. 10, a flow diagram that illustrates a method for validating cache entries in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention is presented. At 1000, a cache entry is received. At 1005, an determination is made regarding whether the cache entry is valid. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the cache entry is invalid if a predetermined amount of time has elapsed since it was obtained from the subsystem responsible for it. According to another embodiment, the cache entry is invalid when the corresponding request within a pattern is removed, such as when a

specific request within a pattern is removed or when the entire pattern is removed. If the cache entry invalid is invalid, it is invalidated at 1010. At 1015, a determination is made regarding whether another cache entry needs to be checked. If another cache entry needs to be checked, processing continues at 1000.